

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER

Educator Guide

2016–2017



The Hall of Justice is headquarters for the judicial branch of government. It houses the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals – District IV.

Are You Visiting Lansing?

Be sure to make the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center part of your visit. Free, guided tours highlight:

- The role and structure of the judicial branch of government
- U.S. Constitution and Michigan Constitution
- Other law-related topics upon request

**Call to schedule
tours today!
517-373-7171**

School Tours

The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center – a hands-on gallery within the Hall of Justice – offers [tours](#) and [events](#) developed to engage students, grades 3 and up.

- One hour in length
- Groups up to 48, including chaperones
- Weekdays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (except state holidays)
- Free

To include the Michigan Supreme Court courtroom, you must specifically request this option when making reservations. Additional time is required. Courtroom visits cannot be guaranteed due to the Court's schedule.

Teachers are Saying

This experience exceeded our expectations on every level. We are planning to make it a regular field trip.

It connected well with our teaching standards, was close to the Capitol building, and free.

The Learning Center was geared towards interactive, hands-on learning that was interesting and stimulating for our students.



Guided [tours](#) help students understand the judicial branch of government and how court decisions affect their everyday lives.

At courts.mi.gov/learningcenter

The Learning Center's website offers many resources, including:

Educator Resources

- [Field Trips](#) – Details about school tours, including tips for great tours and Teacher-Led Activities, series of exercises that can be used during travel time or longer breaks between tours
- [Curriculum Resources](#) – Background information and lesson plans about the Michigan court system, constitutions, mock trials and other simulations, core democratic values, and career planning
- [Educator E-newsletter](#) – Archive of issues for the seasonal e-newsletter (courts.mi.gov/Justitia)

Gallery of Exhibits

- Text of some of the [exhibits and interactives](#) in the Learning Center gallery



Online Videos

The Learning Center maintains a [playlist of videos](#) on the [Michigan Supreme Court YouTube Channel](#).

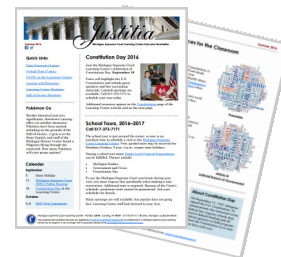
- An overview of the [school tour experience](#) (3 min)
- A [virtual tour](#) of the Hall of Justice (7 min)
- An introduction to the [Preamble of the U.S. Constitution](#) (3 min)
- An explanation of the [Michigan Supreme Court's decision-making process](#). (20 min)

1) Go to
youtube.com/user/MichiganCourts/playlists

2) Click on
Learning Center



Justitia E-Newsletter



Sign up for [Justitia](#), the Learning Center's e-newsletter, by e-mailing LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov.

Intended for k–12 educators and others interested in resources about the judicial branch of government, the seasonal e-newsletter contains program announcements, brief readings on law-related topics, and recommended resources from a variety of sources for all grade levels.

An archive of issues is available at courts.mi.gov/Justitia.

Special Programs & Events

Constitution Day

There is still time to schedule for the Learning Center's Constitution Day event on **September 19, 2016**.

Tours will highlight the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 and include guest speakers. Each group will receive related curriculum resources for use in the classroom.



Law Day

Law Day, **May 1, 2017**, is a national event that will explore ways the 14th Amendment has shaped American law and society. Known for its Citizenship, Due Process, and Equal Protection clauses, the 14th Amendment has advanced the rights of all Americans and extended the reach of the Bill of Rights to the states. It is a cornerstone of landmark civil rights laws and court decisions.



Summer Moot Court

This experience, held **July 17–21, 2017**, is for high school students interested in legal careers. Students act as attorneys and justices to argue a case as if before the Supreme Court. They meet with law students, lawyers, court staff, and members of the judiciary to prepare and to learn more about the day-to-day life in the legal profession. Applications available March 1, 2017.



Social Studies GLCEs

Tours, programs, and resources of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center are designed to encourage active participation as students learn about the purpose, structure, and role of government in their community, state, and nation.

Social Studies GLCEs (K–8)

- Purposes of Government (C1)
- Values and Principles of American Government (C2)
- Structure and Functions of Government (C3)
- Roles of the Citizen (C5)

Civics GLCEs (High School)

- Conceptual Foundations of Civic and Political Life (C1)
- Origins and Foundations of Government (C2)
- Government in the United States of America (C3)
- Citizenship in the United States (C5)
- Citizenship in Action (C6)

See courts.mi.gov/learningcenter for charts of specific curriculum standards.

To schedule school tours for 2016–2017, call 517-373-7171 today!



Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30048
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

courts.mi.gov/learningcenter

School Tours

Cost FREE!

Hours Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Call 517-373-7171

Find Michigan Supreme Court On



Location

Michigan Hall of Justice
925 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48915

*The Learning Center is near the **State Capitol** and the **Michigan Historical Museum** in downtown Lansing.*

